

**INDIANA ARTS COMMISSION  
ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE**

November 18, 2010, 10:00 a.m.

IAC Offices

100 N. Senate Avenue, Room N505  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Jon Ford, Chair

Minutes

Members present: Linda Levell, Pam Hicks, Jeff Kirk, John DePrez

Members present via teleconference: Tetia Lee, Donna Catalano, Jeanne Mirro (ex officio)

Members absent: Jon Ford, Gil Cárdenas, Kelly Schreckengast

IAC present: Michelle Anderson, Rex Van Zant, Laura Frank, Dennis Hardin

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** In the absence of Chair Jon Ford, Ms. Levell brought the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. **Consent Agenda.** Due to lack of quorum present, this item was deferred.

3. **IAC Advocacy Update.** IAC Deputy Director Michelle Anderson reported that the agency is on target for the FY 2011 budget. IAC Marketing and Communications Director Rex Van Zant reported that IAC is preparing a letter that will be mailed to newly-elected members of the Indiana legislature, welcoming them to state government, explaining what the Arts Commission does, and encouraging them to meet with arts advocates and administrators. The letter will be sent in late November or early December, and will bear the signatures of Commission Chair Jeanne Mirro and Executive Director Lewis Ricci.

4. **State Arts Advocates Update.** Indiana Coalition for the Arts president Tetia Lee reported that INCA is targeting communications with returning legislators who have a history of cooperation with the arts, with a view toward the upcoming budgetary session of the state legislature. She also reported on “grades” that are assigned to members of the U. S. House of Representatives and Senate reflecting their history of support for the arts, noting that the state of Indiana has “a long way to go”. INCA is being pro-active in contacting newly-elected Representatives and Senator, to establish relations and begin advocating for the arts. Ms. Lee then presented a map of the United States (attached) showing which states have Public Art programs in place. While Indiana does not have a state-funded Public Art program, there are at least two locally-funded programs, those being in Bloomington and Indianapolis. Ms. Anderson expressed her appreciation for Donna Catalano, from Region 1 in Munster, who traveled the length of the state recently

to represent INCA at the arts awards ceremony in Region 9. Mr. Kirk asked about the success of state-wide taxes for the arts in other states, and Ms. Lee explained that a few states have instituted such a tax, or have designated a portion of certain taxes on such things as cigarettes, entertainment, and dining. Indiana has no such tax, but the idea is brewing among advocates.

5. **Governor's Arts Awards.** Mr. Van Zant presented a handout (attached) explaining the latest developments for the 2011 Governor's Arts Awards. Two glass artists are being considered to create the awards which will be given at the ceremony. Nominations for the awards will be accepted through December 15. Two communities have submitted written proposals to host the awards, those being South Bend and Michigan City/Laporte. The Advocacy and Awareness committee will meet on December 9<sup>th</sup> to hear oral presentations and select the host site.

6. **New Business.** IAC Communications Manager Laura Frank presented a slide-show version of the draft of the IAC biannual report to the state legislature. It highlights the amounts of IAC grants being distributed in each of the 12 Regions, and shows which legislators represent each Region.

7. **Old Business.** Mr. Van Zant presented a handout (attached) explaining the latest developments in the new Bureau of Motor Vehicles marketing campaign, which includes a new version of the IAC Cultural Trust license plate. BMV will be highlighting the IAC plate among other specialty plates on the BMV website and in some branch offices. Ms. Frank presented the IAC E-communications report (attached), showing statistics for IAC website visits and subscribers to the IAC's two electronic newsletters, ArtsEye and Arts:92. Ms. Anderson reported briefly on the five public meetings recently in connection with the new IAC Strategic Plan. Meetings were held at Hanover College, Butler University, Ball State University, Valparaiso University, and Indiana State University. Committee member John DePrez also reported on his attendance at the recent Meridian Institute Public Policy Forum on Innovation, held at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Ms. Anderson also attended.

8. **Adjourn.** Ms. Levell thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting at 10:50 a.m.